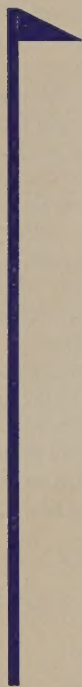


Idaho's A.A.A. On the Job

Reserve

—Making Agriculture a Permanent, Profitable Industry



A Statement from the Idaho State and Ada County A.A.A. Committees

APR 27 1945

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To You Who do not Live on Farms:

Do you work in a bank? Do you own a business? Do you follow a trade? If you live in Idaho, you have a vital interest in how things are going with Idaho farmers.

Why?

Because it's the farmers who start most of Idaho's pennies and dollars rolling. If farmers are hard up, there are but few persons in the state who don't feel the pinch.

IDAHO'S INCOME

YEAR	MILLIONS	AGRICULTURE	MINES	FORESTRY
1929	\$235	70 %	15 %	15 %
1932	84	83	9.5	7.5
1937	178	63	21	16

But the figures above reflect an important reason for retarded economic conditions in Idaho. When business improved after the 1932 slump, so did agricultural income—but more slowly. That's the way it's been after every slump.

Farmers constitute about 24 percent of the nation's population, yet they get only 11 percent of the national income. Because agriculture is the major source of Idaho's income, the prosperity of the whole state is rooted in the farmers' returns from their products and labors.

Farmers buy from stores in cities and towns to fill their needs. They buy the goods made in city factories, stored in city warehouses. Their products and purchases keep railroads and terminals busy.

Yes, farmers are your customers—your best customers, you who do not live on farms. We want to be *steady* customers, both for your sake and ours.

The Agricultural Adjustment Program is our plan for making that possible because it is a *Business Program* for the farm. We think you'll be interested in reading about it.

IDAHO STATE A.A.A. COMMITTEE:

Milford J. Vaught, Mackay,

Chairman,

T. Henry Crozier, Lewiston,

D. R. Turner, Boise,

E. J. Iddings, Extension Service,
ex-Officio Member.

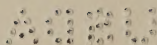
ADA COUNTY A.A.A. COMMITTEE:

Fred Dittmar, Boise,

Chairman,

W. L. Teeter, Meridian,

Roy Shutwell, Boise.



Idaho's Own A.A.A. Farm Program

The Agricultural Adjustment Program in Idaho is part of the great national movement to "do something for the farmer." It was conceived of the same need, it was fashioned in the same way—step by step, each new development founded on the experience gained in the last.

But it is Idaho's program.

It has been built on the experiences and suggestions of Idaho farmers. The "good farming" practices it advocates are those which are adapted to Idaho's soil, Idaho's climate, Idaho's water supply. It is administered by Idaho farmers, who are elected by their neighbors to direct the Farm Program in their counties and their communities.

The Farm Program in Idaho combines the best features and methods of stabilized farm production with the all-important task of protecting the soil resources for generations to come.

During the first five years of experimentation with a Farm Program, changes have come thick and fast, the plan had to fit the job to be done. But the Program for this year and next is much the same as it was in 1938. No major changes—only small ones necessary to do the job better. No doubt further changes will be made, but only insofar as they bring us closer to the goal of making farming in Idaho permanent and profitable.

At Work For Idaho Farmers

"Distress" commodities like wheat, cotton and corn are being taken care of now by national adjustment programs which are long-range in viewpoint, philosophy and effect.

Every Idaho farmer who wants to make out of farming a business which is enduring and profitable will do well to study this Idaho Farm Program to find how best it can be adapted to his operations. His State, his County, his Community A.A.A. Committees stand ready to help him work out his problems. More than 80 percent of Idaho farmers have joined forces with A.A.A. in 1939 A.A.A. Farm Program.

Here are the phases of the Farm Program in Idaho.

SOIL CONSERVATION: To conserve the natural resources of the soil for future generations is an aim of the A.A.A. Farm Program and a basic reason for acreage allotments. A.A.A. farmers are expected to plant soil-building and soil-conserving crops on land removed from production of "cash" crops. Or they may carry out weed control, erosion control, or other practices beneficial to the land.

Generally speaking, payments to farmers are made on the basis of such soil-conservation practices first, to recompense them for the sacrifices they are making in reducing their "cash" crop acreages; second, to help them stand the expense of practices which are in the interest of the entire nation.

ACREAGE ADJUSTMENT: Of course, another feature of the plan for removing surplus acres from production is to assist farmers to obtain a fair return for growing needed products and to encourage them to conserve the fertility they may waste in producing surplus products. Surpluses drive markets down; A.A.A. farmers keep surpluses in the soil against the future, and keep them off the market.

CROP INSURANCE: The A.A.A. Farm Program makes ALL-RISK Crop Insurance available to every Idaho wheat grower. Premiums are paid in wheat—or its equivalent at the current market price—and indemnities for crop losses are made in kind. Producers pay in premiums when crops are good and prices low; they may collect indemnities when crops are short and prices are high.

PRICE ADJUSTMENT PAYMENTS: From 1909 to 1914 agricultural prices maintained an equitable level with prices farmers had to pay for things they needed. That 1909-14 relationship has become a "par" for farm prices—"parity" is the aim of all farmers who go to market.

Congress appropriated funds to raise the income of growers of wheat, cotton, tobacco, rice and corn in 1939.

CROP LOANS: When crop surpluses burden the markets and prices drop to unprofitable levels, A.A.A. farm loans become available to Idaho wheat growers. Loans give growers an immediate income from their crops, yet allow them to retain possession and take advantage of any occurring price rises. Loans guard the market from simultaneous "dumping" at harvest time. The wheat, sealed in warehouses or farm granaries as loan collateral, becomes part of the Ever Normal Granary, the consumer's safeguard against scarcity and high prices.

MARKETING AGREEMENTS: All the facilities of governmental market study agencies are available to producers of special crops, in developing systems of orderly marketing when difficult surpluses mount up. Marketing agreements go into effect only if two-thirds of producers voting are in favor of them. A.A.A. committees assist in conducting referendums to determine marketing policies.

SURPLUS PURCHASES: Purchase of surplus farm products for purposes of maintaining America's fair share of the world market and for distribution to needy are made by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation. FSCC purchases prevent price collapses; they prevent needless waste of surplus products by distributing them to otherwise unavailable markets. The Food Stamp plan now being tested is putting surpluses to work to raise standards of living of low income groups.

RANGE CONSERVATION: The Idaho Range Conservation Program seeks to restore to heavily grazed lands their carrying capacity in order to stabilize production of animal products and reduce per unit costs of production. Payments are made to ranch operators to help them defray costs of improving their ranching units. All improvements require an important investment on the part of the operator.

SUGAR BEET PROGRAM: In Idaho 6,042 sugar beet growers participated in the 1938 Sugar Beet Program. Payments, amounting to 29.4 percent of the revenue they received from their crop, were made on 1,132,921 tons of sugar beets harvested. Growers observed child labor provisions and paid fair and reasonable wage rates. They carried out a total of 122,959 acres of soil-conserving practices, including the planting of legumes and grasses to compensate for the soil-depleting effect of the sugar beets.

Conserving Idaho's Soil Resources

In 1938, Idaho farmers planted an estimated total of 899,675 acres to soil-conserving crops, including 618,512 acres of alfalfa. Another 183,989 acres were planted to non-depleting crops, making a total of 1,083,664 acres planted to crops which do not reduce the fertility and productivity of the soil. To hold the soil from washing and blowing in dry areas, 24,998 acres of crested wheat grass were planted by Idaho

farmers in 1938. Forest trees, to prevent wind and water erosion, were planted on 181 acres—a start toward a new type of erosion control which is expected to find increasing favor in subsequent programs.

Trashy fallowing, to hold the soil in place during the “off” years of dryland crop rotation, green manuring to restore organic matter, use of cover crops and weed control, all were a part of the huge soil conserving job turned in by Idaho farmers in 1938.

More than a million and a half acres of range land were included in the 1938 Range Conservation Program. That figure will be doubled in the 1939 Program. About 43,000 acres of rangeland were allowed to reseed themselves naturally. Springs, wells, earthen tanks and reservoirs were built to provide more adequate livestock watering facilities. Fire guards were constructed. Erosion checks were built. The 1938 Range Conservation Program in Idaho was the cooperative effort of 449 operators to make livestock raising a better business.



